

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT M 01218 040938Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /037 W

-----092443 050353Z /11

R 040515Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3545

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 1218

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PP

SUBJECT: PARLIAMENT - PRE-SESSION OUTLOOK

REFS: A) PORT MORESBY 1124, B) PORT MORESBY 1150

1. SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH NO NEW COALESCENCE OF FORCES IS APPARENT, OPPOSITION PEOPLES UNITED FRONT PLANS MOVE VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AT PARLIAMENTARY SESSION BEGINNING AUGUST 7. PUF AND GOVERNMENT EACH SEEMS TO BE GENUINELY CONFIDENT THAT IT HAS SUFFICIENT VOTES TO DEFEAT THE OTHER. OPINIONS AMONG NORMALLY WELL-INFORMED OBSERVERS EVENLY DIVIDED. WE BELIEVE THAT PANGU/PPP WILL HOLD COALITION TOGETHER AND DEFEAT NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE. BELIEVE SOMARE WILL BENEFIT FROM CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION NOMINATE PRIME MINISTER BECAUSE MARGINALLY DISCONTENTED MEMBERS WHO MIGHT WANT TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT VOTE FOR OKUK FOR PRIME MINISTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. AS AUGUST 7 PARLIAMENTARY SESSION APPROACHES, THERE NO SIGNS OF COALESCENCE OF NEW FORCES BEYOND UNITED PARTY (UP) MOVE INTO OPPOSITION PEOPLES UNITED FRONT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT M 01218 040938Z

(PUF) REPORTED REFTEL B. PUF CLAIMS IT HAS SUPPORT FROM SEVERAL MINISTERS WHO WILL ABANDON GOVERNING PANGU/PPP COALITION. IN A LETTER TO SOMARE, MADE PUBLIC AUGUST 2, OPPOSITION LEADER OKUK AND UP HEAD DOA LEVIED A NUMBER OF CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER SOMARE TO RESIGN. OPPOSITION NOW SAYING IT WILL PUT A VOTE OF NO-CONFIDENCE AND WIN. OBVIOUSLY, PUF

WISHES TO CREATE BANDWAGON MENTALITY. HOWEVER, EVEN IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, THEY SEEM TO BE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THEY HAVE THE VOTES TO UNSEAT SOMARE.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE OKUK-DOA LETTER, SOMARE TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WAS GETTING "TIRED OF THEIR RHETORIC" AND SUGGESTED THEY WAIT UNTIL PARLIAMENT RESUMES TO REMOVE HIM. IN PRIVATE, GOVERNMENT MPS ALSO SEEM TO BE ABSOLUTELY CONVINCED THEY HAVE THE VOTES TO DEFEAT A NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION.

4. SUPPOSEDLY INFORMED OPINION IS DIVIDED AND IT POSSIBLE NO ONE KNOWS PRECISELY HOW VOTE WILL GO. WE INCLINED BELIEVE PANGU/PPP COALITION WILL HOLD TOGETHER DESPITE DIFFERENCES OVER THE LEADERSHIP CODE. ONE MAJOR OBSTACLE TO OPPOSITION IS CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT A MOTION OF NO-CONFIDENCE INCLUDE NOMINATION OF NEW PRIME MINISTER. WE BELIEVE SOME MEMBERS WHO MIGHT BE ON THE FENCE WITH RESPECT TO SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE LOST TO THE OPPOSITION WHEN FACED WITH VOTING FOR OKUK FOR PRIME MINISTRY. OPPOSITION COULD OPT FOR SOMEONE LIKE SIR JOHN GUISE BUT AS OF AUGUST 4, OKUK IS FIRMLY ENTRENCHED AS LEADER AND HE IS NOT A MAN WHO WOULD EASILY GIVE UP A CHANCE FOR REAL POWER.

OLMSTED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT M 01218 040938Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTM01218  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780321-0124  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT MORESBY  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780897/aaaaddse.tel  
**Line Count:** 94  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 33ee356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PORT MORESBY 1124, 78 PORT MORESBY 1150  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1835014  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PARLIAMENT - PRE-SESSION OUTLOOK  
**TAGS:** PINT, PP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/33ee356a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014